

In re Patent Application of:

BREWER

Serial No. **09/674,444**

Filed: **OCTOBER 31, 2000**

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 12 and 15 to 23 were previously pending. Claims 1 to 3, 5, 15, 17 to 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 03256430 (Seki et al). Claims 10 to 12 and 16 have been allowed. Claims 7 to 9 and 21 to 23 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 to 3, 5, 10 and 15 have been objected to because of minor informalities.

The claims of the application have been amended to overcome the objections of the Examiner and better define the invention in light of the prior art. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to include the elements of claim 7, while claim 8 has been amended to include the elements of claim 1. Similarly, claim 15 has been amended to include the elements of claim 21, and claim 22 has been amended to include the elements of claim 15.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 10 and 15 have also been amended to correct the informalities objected to by the Examiner, e.g. "jitter-free offset reference clock signal" and "a reference clock signal".

As such, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims remaining in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration would be appreciated.

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Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1465 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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OCT 02 2007

DATE